

Mr. President, women's rights have come a long way since then. But we still have farther to go.

Mr. President, the purpose now of International Women's Day is to promote many causes important to women and girls, such as education, leadership development and ongoing human rights struggles. Supporters of this day would like to see economic justice for women, freedom from glass ceilings, violent workplace environments and sexual harassment, and the elimination of child labor in sweatshops.

In addition, Mr. President, a concurrent celebration of International Women's Day has blossomed in New Jersey. New Jersey, in fact, is the only state where International Women's Day is celebrated state-wide in classrooms and community centers everywhere.

In 1992, New Jersey's celebration was founded in Metuchen with the help of organizations like Women Helping Women, Citizens for Quality Education and the Metuchen Public Schools. Since then, the New Jersey state legislature, the White House and the United Nations have all recognized this celebration as important in the evolution of women's rights. The Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) of the U.S.A., one of the oldest and largest women's organizations in the world, has also become a vital sponsor of International Women's Day.

Mr. President, this year's celebration is entitled, "Women Working for Health: Body, Mind, Spirit," focusing on women in the workplace. In classrooms across New Jersey, women from all walks of life, including veterinarians, pilots, judges, community leaders, and medical researchers, have been invited to discuss their personal and professional experiences with students at levels ranging from kindergarten to adult education programs. These priceless exchanges will provide young girls and women with mentors, role models and friends.

Mr. President, I am happy to join in the celebration of International Women's Day in New Jersey, and all that it does to foster the promotion of equal rights for women. I hope my colleagues will do the same.●

CLIMATE CHANGE BILL AWARDING CREDIT FOR EARLY ACTION

● Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, climate change poses potential real threats to Vermont, the Nation, and the World. While we cannot yet predict the exact timing, magnitude, or nature of these threats, we must not let our uncertainty lead to inaction.

Preventing climate change is a daunting challenge. It will not be solved by a single bill or a single action. As we do not know the extent of the threat, we also do not know the extent of the solution. But we cannot let our lack of knowledge lead to lack of action. We must start today. Our first steps will be hesitant and imperfect, but they will be a beginning.

Today I am joining Senator CHAFEE, Senator MACK, Senator LIEBERMAN, and a host of others in cosponsoring the Credit for Early Action Act in the U.S. Senate.

Credit for Early Action gives incentives to American businesses to voluntarily reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases. Properly constructed, Credit for Early Action will increase energy efficiency, promote renewable energy, provide cleaner air, and help reduce the threat of possible global climatic disruptions. It will help industry plan for the future and save money on energy. It rewards companies for doing the right thing—conserving energy and promoting renewable energy. Without Credit for Early Action, industries which do the right thing run the risk of being penalized for having done so. We introduce this bill as a signal to industry, you will not be penalized for increasing energy efficiency and investing in renewable energy, you will be rewarded.

In writing this bill, Senators CHAFEE, MACK, and LIEBERMAN have done an excellent job with a difficult subject. I am cosponsoring the Credit for Early Action legislation as an endorsement for taking a first step in the right direction. I will be working with my colleagues throughout this Congress to strengthen this legislation to ensure that it strongly addresses the challenges that lie ahead. The bill must be changed to guarantee that our emissions will decrease to acceptable levels, and guarantee that credits will be given out equitably. These modifications can be summarized in a single sentence: credits awarded must be proportional to benefits gained. This goal can be achieved through two additions: a rate-based performance standard and a cap on total emissions credits.

The rate-based performance standard is the most important item. A rate-based standard gives credits to those companies which are the most efficient in their class—not those that are the biggest and dirtiest to begin with. Companies are rewarded for producing the most product for the least amount of emissions. Small and growing companies would have the same opportunities to earn credits as large companies. This system would create a just and equitable means of awarding emissions credits to companies which voluntarily increase their energy efficiency and renewable energy use.

The second item is an adjustable annual cap on total emissions credits. An adjustable annual cap allows Congress to weigh the number of credits given out against the actual reduction in total emissions. Since the ultimate goal is to reduce U.S. emissions, this provision would allow a means to ensure that we do not give all of our credits away without ensuring that our emissions levels are actually decreasing.

With these two additions, Credit for Early Action will bring great rewards to our country, our economy, and our

environment. It will save money, give industry the certainty to plan for the future, and promote energy efficiency and renewable energy, all while reducing our risk from climate change. This legislation sends the right message: companies will be rewarded for doing the right thing—increasing energy efficiency and renewable energy use.●

RICHARD G. ANDREWS

● Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a man who has been a pillar of loyalty, integrity and continuity in Delaware's U.S. Attorney's office for the past 15 years.

We all know men and women who are the pillars of federal government offices—people who keep the wheels of government turning as changes occur around them. Richard G. Andrews is that pillar who keeps Delaware's U.S. Attorney's Office standing tall and strong. I respect his legal talents, professionalism, work ethic and people skills. And I recognize this dedicated public servant today, not because he's retiring—fortunately he's still working as hard as ever—but simply because he deserves the recognition.

As an Assistant U.S. Attorney since 1983, and Chief of the Criminal Division for the past five years, Rich has earned a reputation as a tough, fair prosecutor in the nearly 40 felony jury cases he has tried. He was involved with the most far-reaching FBI undercover sting operation in Delaware history that sent several top State and County officials to prison for bribery convictions. He also sent the Vice President of the Pagan Motorcycle Club to jail for 25 years for running a drug distribution ring. And he prosecuted the men convicted of bilking the federal government and taxpayers out of nearly half-a-million dollars in a student loan scam.

Rich Andrews started his legal career learning from the best—he was law clerk to the late U.S. Court of Appeals Judge for the Third Circuit, Chief Judge Collins J. Seitz.

It's no wonder that distinguished experience marked the beginning of many more honors to come. In 1996, FBI Director Louis Freeh issued a commendation to him for the convictions of three top officials of Madison & Co. in \$1 million securities fraud case. In 1993, he was commended for prosecuting ocean dumpers off the Delaware coast.

Rich continues to pass on his craft to young attorneys, teaching Criminal Trial Advocacy courses. And he goes the extra mile for victims, serving as Chairman of Delaware's Criminal Justice Council's Victims' Subcommittee.

Delaware and our country's U.S. Department of Justice are better for the continued service of Rich Andrews. He is an honest, down-to-earth, tough prosecutor and dedicated public servant. It is my pleasure to recognize this second-in-command as he continues to serve as the Chief Criminal prosecutor